

City of Seattle

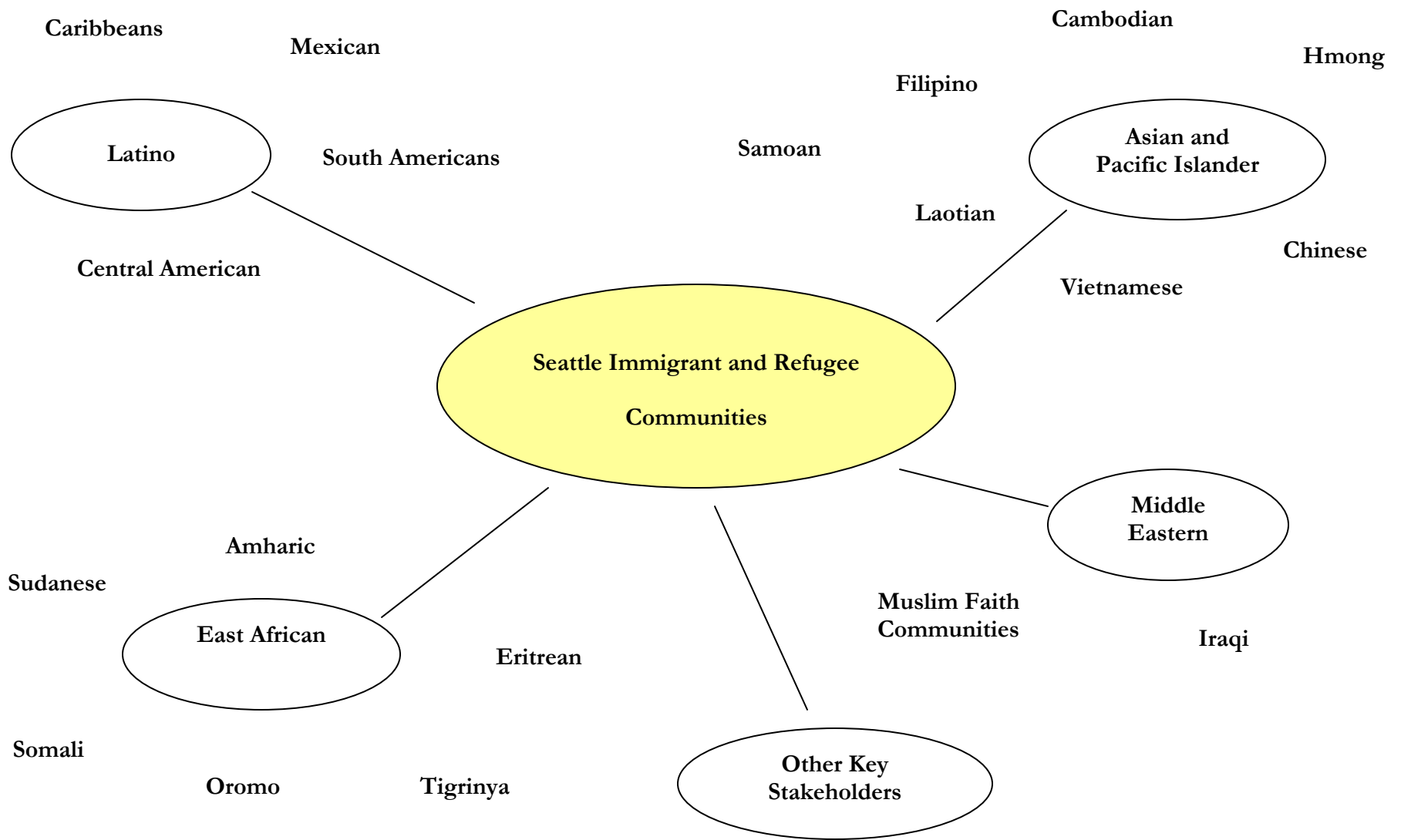
Immigrant and Refugee Community Engagement Project

Community Engagement Plan



Emerging Design Consulting

May 2006



The Community Engagement Plan has been developed to get the broadest reach possible within the scope of this project. Community groups were selected based on the size of the groups in Seattle and to achieve representation of the broadest range of particular community issues. By exploring issues with this broad sweep of cultures and communities, we hope to get feedback, summarize concerns, and propose recommendations to the City of Seattle that will benefit all immigrants and refugees that reside in our city.

The Emerging Design Consulting Team includes members with established positive reputations, relationships and trust in the communities.

Criteria for Inclusion of Community Voices

- Grass roots community members
- Emerging immigrant and refugee organizational leaders
- Balanced inclusion of women
- Participation by Elders and Youth

Processes:

Eleven focus groups will be conducted, to engage in dialogue with various community members. The majority of focus groups will be conducted in the participants' native language.

Eighty-five individual interviews will be conducted with a broad range of community members, including participants in small organizations, women, elders, youth, and religious leaders.

Collaborations:

Several community organizations and community leaders that serve immigrant and refugees will provide advice in implementing this Community Engagement Plan. These organizations include: Casa Latina, Hate Free Zone, Nonprofit Assistance Center and Chinese Information and Service Center. Others may be contacted as the work proceeds. This complete list will be reflected in the summary report.

Reporting:

The Emerging Design Consulting team will record community contacts, and report twice to the City on the numbers of people reached within each immigrant and refugee group and on the numbers of women, youth, and elders.

Additionally, we will gather contact information from participants who wish to be included in future City of Seattle sponsored community events; to support the City's engagement efforts.

Community Engagement Strategies

The strategies listed below have been designed specifically for each broad cultural category to best engage a sampling of the communities within it.

Latino/Hispanic Community

Implemented by Mercedes Cordova-Hakim

The Latino/Hispanic community is geographically spread throughout the city and includes large extended families and a great diversity of country of origin.

Focus groups will be held with:

1. Central Seattle: adults and families that participate in ESL classes at St. James Cathedral. This will be predominantly a Mexican group
2. South Seattle: two groups will take place at Concord Elementary School in South Park, one with parents and one with youth, recruited through the Boxing Club.
3. North Seattle: a mixed Latino/Hispanic group at the North Family Center.

Interviews: target 20 interviews, to include a mix of adults and elders, and will include community members from the Caribbean, Central America, South America and Mexico.

Group members will include:

- Evangelical church leaders
- Catholic church members
- Grass roots organizations

Summary: 4 focus groups and 20 interviews.

East African Community

Implemented by Dr. Hassan Yemer

This is a very large, diverse community with a plethora of organizations and faith-based groups. The engagement strategies are aimed to ensure equitable inclusion of community voices. Although many groups have sprung up reflecting the splintered societies from which the refugees have come, in recent years coalitions have formed to bring these communities together. We will connect with members of these coalitions, as well as with individual ethnic groups.

Focus groups will be organized to talk with general community members

- in Amharic with the Ethiopian community
- Somali

Interviews will be conducted, with community members in each ethnic group that includes youth, women, and elders. Each language group will have at least 3 interviews each:

Oromo, Eritrean, Somali, Tigrinya, Amharic, and Sudanese

These organization members will be interviewed, to include one leader and one community member each:

- Ethiopian Muslim Association
- Ethiopian Orthodox church & other religious groups
- Southern Sudanese Community of Washington, Machot Lat, Director
- African Community Network, Dr. Sebhat Tenna
- Eritrean Community Association
- Eritrean Women's Group
- Tigrinyan Community Association

Summary: 2 focus groups, target 30 interviews

Middle Eastern Community

Implemented by Dr. Hassan Yemer

Although the Middle Eastern communities in Seattle are relatively small, they are growing rapidly and experiencing significant challenges. A focus group will be conducted with Iraqis, held at the Iraqi Community Center. Interviews will also be conducted with four members of the community

Organizational members to interview, to include one leader and one community member each:

- Arab Community Council
- Iraqi Community Center

Summary: 1 focus group, target 5 interviews

Other Key Stakeholders

Implemented by Dr. Hassan Yemer and Bonnie Olson

There will be additional key informants and stakeholders with valuable input to include that do not fall in a specific cultural category. We want to have the flexibility to include some of these stakeholders.

A focus group will also be conducted with The Community Leadership Council, a coalition that includes the following member organizations: Sikh Community, Somali Community Coalition Services, Somali Community Services of Seattle, Refugee Support Service, Oromo Community, Iraqi Community, Council of American-Islamic relations,

Horn of Africa Services, Workers Freedom Riders, ADC, Cham Community, Eritrean Community, Casa Latina, and Northwest Somali Service.

Additional individuals may be recommended for interviews that would be included in this category.

Asian and Pacific Islander Communities
Implemented by Ginger Kwan and Jenny Ap

The Asian community in Seattle is very large and diverse and includes long-established communities as well as recent immigrants. Consultants will recruit community members who are recent immigrants, and achieve a mix of men and women.

Focus groups will be conducted in the following communities:

- Cambodian
- Chinese - Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking community members
- Vietnamese

Interviews will be conducted, with community members in each ethnic group that includes youth, women, and elders. Each language group will have at least 3 interviews each:

Filipino, Laotian, Hmong, Samoan, Tongan

Organizational members to be included in interviews, one leader and one member each:

- Hmong Women's Association
- Cambodian Women's Association
- Helping Link (Vietnamese organization)

Summary: 3 focus groups, target 30 interviews